

INTRODUCTION

This position is that of a Biological Science Aid (Wildlife) for the Wildlife Services (WS) Program, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), U. S. Department of Agriculture. The assignment involves the performance of duties relating to wildlife management and use of control techniques aimed at controlling wildlife damage, particularly that of predatory animals, when it conflicts with man's economic interest, health or safety. The work is primarily concerned with mammalian species, although control operations may also involve avian and rodent species in both urban and rural settings.

The incumbent will be required to perform simple, repetitive tasks requiring only a basic familiarity of biological, agricultural, or animal damage control work.

DUTIES

The incumbent serves as a member of the WS workforce engaged in animal damage control operations.

Incumbent will be progressively trained in the use of various devices, chemicals, firearms, tools and related equipment utilized in animal and bird damage control operations.

As directed, prepares baits and constructs, or sets, devices, lures, traps, etc., in accordance with standard operational procedures.

Is responsible for the maintenance, repair and safekeeping of tools, supplies and equipment issued. When using M-44, or other toxic materials, must maintain records pursuant to the State Pesticide Statutes or regulations and Environmental Protection Agency use restrictions.

May be asked to conduct basic demonstrations of standardized control methods or procedures.

Keeps routine and basic records of daily activities, observations, field conditions or contacts made for purposes of exchanging factual information. Reports any unnatural events or incidents to immediate supervisor. As instructed, cooperates with local ranchers or landowners in suppressing animal damage. Preserves pelts of animals as directed by supervisor.

May receive training and participate in aerial hunting activities as authorized. Also assists in obtaining agreements from landowners, lessees, or administrators prior to control work on private lands.

May be required to pass a Certified Applicator examination, as required of persons who use restricted-use pesticides.

Must demonstrate a respect for the need for safety in all operations, including the operation of motor vehicles, firearms, control devices and equipment.

Must have a valid State Motor Vehicle Operator's or Commercial License, as appropriate. Operation of government owned or leased vehicles is required.

FACTORS

KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED BY THE POSITION

Knowledge of biological sciences related to the processes, methods and procedures of assigned tasks.

Basic knowledge of animal damage control techniques to control damage caused by predators.

Basic knowledge of local, State and Federal regulations, laws or ordinances regarding animal damage control activities.

Knowledgeable in the use of various control devices, chemicals and tools required to perform duties of the position.

SUPERVISORY CONTROLS

The incumbent works under the general supervision of the District Supervisor or designated representative, usually a higher graded technician. The majority of the duties are defined in terms of specific tasks and detailed instructions. Tasks are subject to review by the supervisor for purposes of adherence and compliance with instructions.

GUIDELINES

The incumbent will be progressively trained in the procedural requirements of the position. Guidelines include local, State and Federal regulations, laws, and/or ordinances regarding animal damage control activities. These guidelines are directly applicable and used repetitively in the work.

COMPLEXITY

Tasks are clear and directly related. Some judgment may be required in determining the issuance of depredation permits to landowners. The incumbent seeks the advice of a higher level technician when problems arise.

SCOPE AND EFFECT

The incumbent performs routine, specific tasks to aid in the control of wildlife damage that occurs in an assigned geographic area. The position has an impact on the further overall effectiveness of the Wildlife Services program.

PERSONAL CONTACTS

The incumbent is in contact with private landowners and other WS employees. These contacts are both by telephone and in person, on a daily basis.

PURPOSE OF CONTACTS

The purpose of the contacts is to receive and exchange information and aid in the daily maintenance of the animal damage control program.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

Incumbent must be physically fit and be willing to work alone or with others under various weather conditions as directed by the supervisor. The work requires physical exertion such as walking over rough, uneven or rocky surfaces, bending, crouching, stooping and stretching. Agility and dexterity are required.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

The incumbent spends a considerable amount of time outdoors. The terrain may be uneven, rocky, or in heavy vegetation. There may be exposure to extremes of weather and temperature. The incumbent is also exposed to toxic chemicals and may be exposed to explosives.